



## MINUTES

Minutes of the General Meeting of WASFR Inc. held at the Cambridge Bowling Club, Howtree Place, Floreat, on Friday **8 MARCH 2024**.

The President opened the meeting at 10am and extended a warm welcome to the 22 members and 10 visitors. Congratulations were extended to Bob Arnold on reaching the age of 95 a few days ago.

### **APOLOGIES:**

V. Payne, R. Wyatt, R. & J. Dawson, J. Yeatman.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** Moved I. Moller and seconded by I. Stann, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2024 be accepted as a true record. Carried.

### **BUSINESS ARISING:**

**Investment Group:** P. Farr announced that the next meeting will be on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 9.50am. The guest speaker will be Brendan Bates from HLB Mann Judd and his topic will be *The Family Conference*.

**Aged Care:** There is little additional information available concerning recommendations from the Aged Care Taskforce and the government's position regarding the proposed new Aged Care Act (due to commence on 1 July 2024). Ms M. Walsh, currently on the Council of Elders, was a member of the Aged Care Taskforce and expressed some disappointment that the Taskforce report had not yet been released to the public. There have been questions asked in the Federal Parliament concerning the delay in releasing the report and we can only hope that it will be released soon. Rumours re a possible increase in the Medicare levy do not seem likely with a Federal election due within the next 12 months. The prospect of having Refundable Accommodation Deposits (RADs) being phased out is another rumour that is currently circulating. There have been a number of consultative sessions undertaken by several organisations but the problem remains of little actual details being available. *Comment: The Taskforce Report was released on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March (23 recommendations).*

**Emergency Services Levy:** The President summarised the current situation

- (a) the introduction of the GST in 2000 was supposed to absorb some State taxes - including the ESL
- (b) the Dept. of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) is a State Government Department, just like all of the other State Government Departments, and should be funded out of State revenue
- (c) the concept that a person living close to a Fire Station should pay twice as much as someone living in the outer metropolitan suburbs is highly questionable
  - the cost of fighting fires, storms, cyclones, floods etc. in the country are extremely more expensive than fighting a fire in the metropolitan area (aerial water bombing is very costly)
  - Note: DFES are also responsible for searching for missing persons, hazardous and toxic spills, road crashes and any other emergency on land or sea.

The President had a meeting with a staff member from DFES in January, but it seemed more like a "public relations exercise" and has not resulted in any changes. It was stressed that a meeting with the relevant Minister was required and we would not be satisfied until such a meeting takes place.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Emails from National Seniors re (a) Federal Pre-Budget submission, (b) Social survey, (c) Deeming rates also NSA *Connect* 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> February
- Emails from Dept. Health - *Engaged* February newsletter
- Email re Aged Care - feedback extended to 8<sup>th</sup> March
- Email from OPAN - *The National Advocate* (February)
- Email from Perth A.I.R. - 2024/25 Federal Pre-Budget submission
- Email from Kate Chaney - February newsletter

**COMMUNICATIONS** cont.

- Emails re distribution of WASFR Minutes
- Emails re Insurance
- Emails to Ocean Gardens Retirement Village
- Email from Town of Cambridge (March activities)
- Emails from COTA Australia - new Chairperson (C. Pyne) plus Home Care survey
- Emails from ACOSS (3)
- Brisbane North Retirees - March newsletter
- SMSF Weekly News Digests (6)

**FINANCE:** The Treasurer, M. Harris, invited members to look at the monthly financial statement printed on the reverse of today’s Agenda. Funds available as at 2<sup>nd</sup> March were down to \$6,159.61 with no outstanding accounts. No questions from members.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Other:** A brief mention was made about emailing copies of the Minutes of monthly meetings to those members with email addresses - seems that this is now satisfactory. The President mentioned the ever-present need for new Committee members.

The Secretary, S. Goodchild, said that the subject for the May meeting will be about the loss of one’s hearing and how it can affect a person’s sense of well-being. There will be a mobile van where free on-the-spot hearing tests will be available for those interested. Members were asked to advise the Secretary prior to the May meeting if they wished to take a test - if no-one wishes to do so then the mobile van can be cancelled.

After the morning tea break the President introduced John Vista who has agreed to deliver a presentation on *The Historic Gardens of Perth*. John is the founding Chairman of the WA branch of the Australian Garden History Society and is actively involved with promoting the garden history of WA. In 2008 John received an award from the Heritage Council of WA for *Outstanding contribution to Heritage in WA by an individual*. John has some copies of his recent book *The Historic Gardens of Perth* that members can purchase when the meeting closes.

A small presentation was made by the Secretary to John for his interesting presentation.

Speakers for the following months are as follows

12 April	Ron Banks	<i>Why men go to War</i>
10 May	Jordan Bishop	<i>Lions – Lets Talk Hearing</i>
14 June	Odette Gaynor	<i>Continnence</i>
12 July	Professor Dr. Don McFarlane	<i>The importance of Urbane Wet Lands - the Perry Lakes Revival Project</i>

Confirmed .....

Date .....

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING: FRIDAY 12 APRIL 2024**

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